

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00
/079 W

-----180931Z 104827 /10

O R 170852Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9948
AMEMBASSY LOME IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY COTONOU IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 3054

AF FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR: TO, DM, NI
SUBJECT: KEREKOU AND EYADEMA TO LAGOS TO DISCUSS MUTUAL BORDER
AND OTHER PROBLEMS.

REF: (A) LAGOS 2626 (B) LOME 680

1; IN CONVERSATION MARCH 17 WITH EXTAFF COMMISSIONER GARBA CHARGE
REFERRED TO BENIN JANUARY COUP ATTEMPT AND ASKED IF FMG THOUGHT TOGO
HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN ANY WAY; GARBA RESPONDED WITH FLAT, FORCEFUL
DENIAL AND SEEMED TO HAVE NO QUESTION IN HIS MIND ON THIS POINT.

2;GARBA WENT ON TO REFER TO THE TO-INGS AND FRO-INGS DESCRIBED
PARA 2 REFTEL A AND SAID THAT PRESIDENT EYADEMA AND PRESIDENT
KEREKOU HAD BEEN INVITED TO LAGOSSMARCH 17 TO DISCUSS THEIR
DIFFERENCES AND THE BORDER CLOSURE. HE SAID EYADEMA HAD WANTED
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GABONESE PRESIDENT BONGO TO BE INVITED TOO, AND KEREKOU
HAD ASKED FOR GUINEAN PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE, BUT GARBA HAD
NO INTENTION OF GETTING INTO COMPLICATIONS OF THIS SORT.

3. CHARGE ALLUDED TO UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONSSPUT ON FOREIGN DIP-
LOMATS IN COTONOU AND EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE OF BEING ABLE TO TRAVEL
WITHIN THE COUNTRY ACD IMPOSSIBILITY OF PURSUING DEVELOPMENT

PROJECTS UP-COUNTRY IF THEY CANNOT BE VISITED. GARBA APPRECIATED THE PROBLEMS AND SAID HE MIGHT "GET INTO THE INTERNAL SITUATION" IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH KEREKOU, BUT HE DID NOT WANT TO SEEM TO INTERFERE. CHARGE POINTED OUT LEGITIMATE INTEREST FMG HAS IN RESTRICTIONS PLACED ON ITS REPRESENTATIVES. GARBA AGREED: HIS OWN PEOPLE HAVE APPARENTLY NOT TRIED TO GET UP-COUNTRY BUT HAVE DRIVEN BETWEEN COTONOU AND LAGOS FREQUENTLY AND WITHOUT HINDERANCE IN RECENT WEEKS AS THEY CONFERRED WITH MEA OVER BENINESE PROBLEMS.

4. AT IRISH RECEPTION EVENING OF MARCH 17 TOGOLESE AMBASSADOR APEDO AMAH CONFIRMED THAT EYADEMA IS TO ARRIVE LAGOS MARCH 18 AND SAID KEREKOU IS EXPECTED AS WELL.
CROSBY

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 17-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
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